

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00025 051823Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02

DLOS-06 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20

NSC-10 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 051725Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 691

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: LONG SHOREMENS STRIKE AT PORT OF SAINT JOHN NB

1. LOCAL 273 OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMENS ASSOCIATION WENT OUT ON STRIKE ON FEBRUARY 1ST AND ON FEBRUARY 2ND AND VOTED TO STAY ON STRIKE "UNTIL WE GET A FAIR CONTRACT" FROM THE MARITIME EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (MEA).

2. AT ISSUE COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR (OFFER IS 50 CENT INCREASE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1973: 30 CENT INCREASE FOR 1974 AND ANOTHER 30 CENTS ON JANUARY 1, 1975). SIMILAR INCREASES WERE ACCEPTED BY HALIFAX LONGSHOREMEN FOLLOWING THEIR WALKOUT IN NOVEMBER 1973. SAINT JOHN COUNTERPARTS FEEL THIS NOT ENOUGH. THEY ARE ALSO IRKED THAT 20 CENT A TON ROYALTIES WHICH PAYABLE IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS TO BE ELIMINATED.

3. LONGSHOREMEN WANT TWO YEAR CONTRACT WHILE MEA OFFERING THREE YEARS.

4. STEVEDORING COMPANIES REPORTEDLY CONSIDER MEA OFFER GIVES A LONGSHOREMAN GOOD DEAL. IN ADDITION TO INCREASES IN PAY BENEFITS PAID FOR PENSION FUND WOULD ENABLE LONGSHOREMEN TO RETIRE ON AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00025 051823Z

MUCH AS 250 DOLLARS PER MONTH. NOW THEY GET HALF THIS OR LESS AND

TWO YEARS AGO NOTHING.

5. UNION HAS NO STRIKE FUND SO PROTRACTED STRIKE CONSIDERED UN-
LIKELY. HOWEVER CONCILIATION BOARD NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET UNTIL
FEBRUARY 7 SO NO PROGRESS LIKELY TILL THEN.

6. AS IN CASE OF HALIFAX STRIKE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MEA AND
UNION HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR MONTHS WITH NO AGREEMENT.

7. SAINT JOHN STRIKE FIRST IN 60 YEARS.
MANBEY

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Message Attributes

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